

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 01771 101327 Z

50

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 IO-13 DPW-01 AID-20 T-03

PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-14 RSR-01 EB-11 SSO-00 CCO-00 INRE-00

NSCE-00 /151 W

----- 020595

O R 101145 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2964

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL UDORN

USDEL FRANCE

USIA WASHDC

SECDEF

DIRNSA FT GG MEADE MD

CINCPAC

CINCUSARPAC HAWAII

CDRUSMACV

COMUSMACTHAI

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

CDR USSAG NKP

DEPCDR U/13 AF

CDR 7 TH RRFS RAMASUN THAI

CDR 7 ACCS KORAT

DODSPECREP BANGKOK

DODSPECREP NKP

CHSPECACTS BKK

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PAGE 02 VIENTI 01771 101327 Z

56 SOW NKP
432 TRW UDORN
CDR JCRC NKP

CONFIDENTIAL VIENTIANE 1771

CINCPAC FOR POLAD; MACV FOR COMMAND CENTER AND J3 O8;
7/13 AF, 432 TRW AND 56 SOW FOR DO/ DI; MACTHAI FOR J2
AND PAO

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PINT, PFOR, LA
SUBJECT: LAO SITUATION REPORT - MARCH 10

REF: VIENTIANE 1750

SUMMARY: MILITARY - LOW LEVEL OF GROUND ACTION PERSISTED DURING PERIOD 8-9 MARCH, WITH ONLY ELEVEN MINOR CLASHES AND SHELLINGS REPORTED. HOWEVER, IN TWO OF THESE ATTACKS, FRIENDS WERE FORCED TO WITHDRAW FROM OUTPOSTS WELL EAST OF BAN HOUET SAI AND WELL NORTHWEST OF BOUAM LONG. ALTHOUGH FLYING WELL BELOW ITS PRE- CEASEFIRE RATE, RLAF CONTINUED TO EMPLOY T-28'S AGAINST QUESTIONABLE TARGETS SUCH AS ENEMY TROOP CONCENTRATIONS OF NO IMMEDIATE THREAT TO FRIENDLY GROUND FORCES. ON 9 MARCH, ONE T-28 WAS SHOT DOWN WHILE ATTACKING ENEMY TROOPS SOME 75 KM NORTHEAST OF PAKSANE; PILOT WAS RECOVERED SAFELY. REPORTED ARTILLERY EXPENDITURES CONTINUED EXTREMELY LOW.

SUMMARY: POLITICAL - MILITARY GROUP MEETING MARCH 9 HIT SNAG OF LPF DILATORY TACTICS. PRIME MINISTER IN INTERVIEW MARCH 9 DISCOUNTED RUMORS OF RIGHTIST COUP.

1. OBSERVANCE OF CEASEFIRE

A. MR I: THERE WERE TWO MINOR GROUND ACTIONS IN REGION, BOTH ON 8 MARCH. IN NORTHWEST, ENEMY ATTACKED AND FORCED FRIENDS TO WITHDRAW FROM POSITION APPROX 60 KM EAST OF BAN HOUET SAI (ONE FRIENDLY KIA). ONE CLASH OCCURRED SOUTH OF SAYABOURY TOWN (NO CASUALTIES).

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PAGE 03 VIENTI 01771 101327 Z

DELAYED REPORTED INDICATED MINOR SHELLING NORTHEAST OF

BAN HOEUI SAI WOUNDED ONE FRIEND ON 7 MARCH. RLAf FLEW FOUR T-28 SORTIES ON 9 MARCH NV ALL EAST OF BAN HOUEI SAI. DELAYED REPORTS REVEALED ADDITIONAL 26 T-28 SORTIES WERE FLOWN AGAINST ENEMY LOCATIONS EAST AND NORTHEAST OF BAN HOEUI SAI ON 5, 6 AND 7 MARCH.

B. MR II: THERE WERE THREE SCATTERED MINOR INCIDENTS, ALL ON 9 MARCH. TWO OUTPOSTS POSITIONS APPROX 17 KM NORTHWEST OF BOUAM LONG, NORTH OF PDJ, WERE LOST TO ENEMY ATTACK (CASUALTIES UNKNOWN). ONE CLASH OCCURRED SOUTH OF PDJ, NORTHEAST OF PA DONG APPROX 25 KM EAST OF LONG TIENG (FIVE FRIENDLY WIA, TWO ENEMY KIA). THERE WAS ONE SHELLING WITHOUT CASUALTIES JUST NORTHWEST OF THA VIANG, SOUTHEAST OF PDJ. RLAf FLEW SEVEN T-28 SORTIES (INITIALL ON 9 MARCH, TWO IN THA VIANG AREA DN FIVE IN MUONG SOUI AREA (ONE TRUCK DESTROYED, FIVE ENEMY CONFIRMED KBA). LATE BDA REPORT FROM 8 MARCH STRIKES IN THA VIANG AREA: EIGHT ENEMY CONFIRMED KBA.

C. MR III: THERE WERE THREE MINOR GROUND ACTIONS ON 8-9 MARCH, ALL CLASHES APPROX 15 KM SOUTH SOUTHEAST AND 30 KM EAST SOUTHEAST OF THAKHEK (NO CASUALTIES). RLAf FLEW SIX T-28 SORTIES ON 9 MARCH, SOUTHEAST OF THAKHEK (FOUR ENEMY PROBABLE KBA) AND WELL NORTH OF DO GHENE (SIX ENEMY CONFIRMED KBA). U. S. CONTRACT AIR-CRAFT ON LIAISON MISSION WAS FIRED AT, BUT NOT HIT, JUST EAST OF MUONG PHALANE.

D. MR IV: ONLY GROUND ACTION IN REGION WAS SMALL CLASH SOUTH OF KHONG SEDONE ON 9 MARCH (NO CASUALTIES). WESTERN BOLOVENS PLATEAU UNITS WERE RESUPPLIED BY TRUCK WITHOUT INCIDENT. ONLY RLAf ACTIVITY WAS ON AC-47 SORTIE IN SUPPORT OF TROOPS IN CONTACT SOUTHEAST OF SOUKHOUMA NIGHT 8-9 MARCH. PL FLAGS HAVE BEEN SIGHTED IN THREE VILLAGES NORTHEAST OF KHONG SEDONE, NORTHEAST OF PAKSE AND NORTHEAST OF SOUKHAMA -- ALL AREAS PREVIOUSLY BELIEVED UNDER AT LEAST NOMINAL RLG CONTROL.

E. MR V: THERE WERE TWO MINOR GROUND ACTIONS ON
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PAGE 04 VIENTI 01771 101327 Z

8-9 MARCH, BOTH CLASHES APPROX 70 KM NORTHWEST OF VIENTIANE (TEN FRIENDLY WIA, ONE MIA). RLAf FLEW SIX T-28 SORTIES IN SUPPORT OF FOREGOING ACTION ON 9 MARCH. ONE T-28 WAS SHOT DOWN WHILE ATTACKING ENEMY TROOPS APPROX 75 KM NORTHEAST OF PAKSANE; PILOT EJECTED AND

WAS RECOVERED UNHARMED. RLG FORCES LOWERED WITHOUT INCIDENT TWO PL FLAGS THAT WERE FLYING OVER VILLAGE SCHOOLS APPROX 45 KM NORTH NORTHWEST OF VIENTIANE.

F. COUNT OF CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS: RLG DEFMIN ANNOUNCED SIX ADDITIONAL ENEMY CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS, BRINGING TOTAL TO 193 AS OF MORNING OF 9 MARCH. OUR COUNT OF GROUND VIOLATIONS INITIATED BY BOTH SIDES CLIMBED TO 43 MAJOR AND 269 MINOR INCIDENTS THROUGH 7 MARCH.

2. POLITICAL SECTION

A. JOINT RLG/LPF MILITARY STUDY GROUP HTI SNAG IN MEETING MARCH 9. AFTER SESSION, LPF SPOKEMAN TOLD PRESS THAT IN THESE MEETINGS LPF WISHES ONLY TO DISCUSS AND STUDY PROCEDURES. RLG SPOKESMAN EXPRESSED HIS DIS-APPOINTMENT LPF HAD DISAVOWED WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS THEIR COMMITMENT TO STUDY PROPOSALS FOR 46 CEASEFIRE TEAMS. STATUS OF 3 MOBILE TEAMS IN VIENTIANE UNCLEAR.

B. OFFICIAL LAO PRESSE REPORTED THAT IN MARCH 9 INTERVIEW WITH IRANIAN RADIO TELEVISION, PRIME MINISTER DECLARED THAT THERE IS NO TRUTH IN RUMORS OF A POSSIBLE COUP D' ETAT AND ADDED THAT ONE WOULD HAVE TO BE INSANE TO STIR UP NEW DIFFICULTIES IN LAOS.

GODLEY

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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CIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
EA
JAKARTA
MOSCOW
PARIS

PHNOM PENH
SECSTATE WASHDC
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